



November 21, 2001

# The Hartley County Harvester

**Hartley County FSA**  
**District 1**  
PO Box 177  
Hartley, TX 79044-0177

**Hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**County Committee:**  
Marvin Batenhorst  
Joe Parker  
Bud Snead  
Babette Spinhirne, Advisor

**Staff:**  
Glen Clugy, CED  
Becky Brown, PT  
Becky Voight, PT  
Teresa Gates, PT

Regular Committee Meetings  
held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of  
each Month.

## Dates to Remember

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> -- Closed  
for Thanksgiving**  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup> -- Final date  
to return COC election  
ballots**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> -- Final  
date to report grass  
acreage grazed year  
round**

**On the World Wide Web:**  
USDA Washington Office  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
FSA Washington Office  
[www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Texas State FSA Office  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/tx](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx)  
Hartley FSA  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/tx/tx205](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx/tx205)

## Producer Meeting



With the implementation of the new Noninsured Assistance Crop Program and other changes in FSA programs, a producer meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> to explain to you how these changes will impact you. This meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank's meeting room in Dalhart.

We encourage all farmers and ranchers to attend this meeting and ample opportunity will be given in a question/answer period. We hope you can be there.

## Crop & Grass Acreage Reports

All producers are reminded that, beginning with the 2002 crop year, crop acreage reports are due the earlier of 15 days before the onset of harvest of the crop or May 15<sup>th</sup> for fall seeded crops and July 15<sup>th</sup> for spring seeded crops. For grass acreage which is grazed year round, the final reporting date is December 17<sup>th</sup>. Acreage reports filed after these deadlines will be subject to a late-filing fee, and if physical evidence of the crop is not available in the field on the date of the late-filed report, the report cannot be accepted.

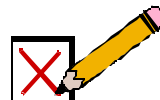
Since grazing is considered a form of harvest, small grain acres should be reported to this office 15 days prior to grazing the acreage regardless of the final use (ie. hay or grain) of the crop. If the small grain acreage will not be grazed but will be hayed or grained, the crop should be reported no later than the earlier of 15 days prior to baling or graining the crop or May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Accurate and timely reports can help you maintain eligibility for numerous FSA programs and could help you avoid penalties from being assessed. If you are unsure of the correct acres, measurement service through this office is available for a small fee.

## Disaster Reporting

All producers are reminded that any damage they discover in their crops or grass acreage should be reported to this office within 15 days of discovering the damage. Making these reports timely can aid you in maintaining FSA benefits which may be available to you. Furthermore; these reports should be made regardless of what you intend to do with the acreage after the disaster event so that your benefits can be maintained.

## COC Election



Ballots for the 2001 Hartley County FSA Committee election for LAA #3 (southeastern portion of the County) were mailed November 20<sup>th</sup> and should be returned to this office by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The nominees for this year elections are:

Brad Green  
Wade Lenz

Don McWhirter  
Joe Parker

The nominee who receives the most votes in the election will be appointed as the COC member for the area while the second and third top vote getters will be appointed respectively as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> alternates to the COC member with each appointee's term being 3 years.

FSA County Committees provide a vital link in the delivery of FSA programs within the County, and we encourage everyone to take an active role in electing the representative of your choice.

Please take a moment to complete the election ballot and return it to the office. All ballots must be received by December 3, 2001. Be sure you sign your name on the address label located on the outside of the return envelope or the vote will be invalid and won't be counted!

## PFC Information

Farmers in the PFC program recently received a multiple page letter from this office. Please remove it from your dash board or burn pile and take a moment to review the information. If your 2002 payment shares are listed as 0.0000, your contract needs to be updated before payment is issued. The letter will also answer questions you have concerning rented land, payments and changes in farming operations. And remember, only those individuals who share in the risk of the crop grown on contract acres may share in PFC payments!

## CRP Maintenance

All CRP participants are reminded that they must control their acreage from erosion and weeds regardless of whether you have assigned the payments to a financial institution or not. Failure to timely and properly take measures to control these items can cause penalties to be assessed or a loss of CRP benefits.



### ***Farm Record Changes***

As harvest season wraps up, you may already be thinking about next year. Take the time this winter to notify this office of changes in your farming operation. These modifications may include:

- Adding or removing individuals from the operation
- Purchasing or selling land
- Renting new land or dropping rented land

These alterations generate changes in paperwork and can affect contracts. Notifying the office now will save you time next year when you need to be in the fields. We also encourage ranchers to inform us of any changes in their operations so that we can keep you properly informed of programs available to you.

### ***Holidays***

This office will be closed on Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> for Thanksgiving; Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas; and Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for the New Year. We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

If you have any questions about this newsletter or any FSA program, please come by this office or call us at (806) 365-4453 extension 2.